

REMARKS

A petition to extend the time for response by three (3) months is enclosed herewith.

Claims 10-18 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claim 10 is currently amended and Claims 11-18 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 15-18 and indication that Claims 11-14 include allowable subject matter. The rewriting of Claims 11-14 in independent form is being held in abeyance pending the outcome of further examination of the rejected claim pending in the present application.

Claim 10 stands rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,295,004 to Burnett (Burnett '004) in view of US Patent No. 3619592 to Lamb, Jr. (Lamb, Jr. '292).

Independent Claim 10 recites a dishwashing machine including a plurality of generally upstanding, interconnected interior walls forming a washing chamber and a door pivotable around the horizontal axis thereof. A door seal is disposed intermediate the interior walls and the door to form a watertight washing compartment when the door is closed against the door seal. A switch is arranged on the door, the switch being operable to generate an electric signal when a predetermined pivoting angle of the door is reached as the door is being opened. The present invention further provides a light source configured for illuminating the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine, the light source being mounted to one of the interior walls, thereby being disposed in

the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal and not disposed on the door, the light source being operably connected to the switch such that the light source is activated into an illuminated condition to illuminate the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine from within the washing chamber in response to the receipt of the electrical signal from the switch.

As set forth above, the present invention provides an automatically illuminated light source disposed in the interior walls of the washing chamber interiorly of the door seal to fully illuminate the interior of the appliance when the access door is open to a predetermined angle.

Burnett '004 is directed to an appliance warning light, seen in operation in Figure 1 thereof. The warning light is attachable to or made a permanent part of the front door of an automatic dishwasher or oven with the front door being open to a generally horizontal position above the floor (Col. 1, line 65-68; Col. 2, lines 1-2). An angle sensitive switch is mounted in the housing which is in turn mounted to the door and is operatively connected between the warning light and the storage battery. The switch is open and the warning light off when the front door is closed, while the switch is closed and warning light on when the front door is open. The warning light, when on, is sufficiently visible to warn or alert a person nearby the dishwasher that the front door is open and is to be avoided (Col. 2, lines 3-12). An LED, seen in Figure 1 at 22 is provided as a light source and emits a strong, preferably pulsed stream of light upwardly in the direction of the arrows from each distal corner of the open front door 12. In the form of a strobe or pulsating light beam, the person shown in phantom [in Figure 1] is much more aware of the fact that the front door is open in the proximate position of the corners and associated side margins so as to automatically avoid contact and injury between a lower leg and shin and the open front door 12 (Col. 3, lines 47-56). Accordingly, Burnett '004 teaches a pulsed warning light visible outside

the appliance to warn others that the appliance door is open horizontally and is to be avoided.

In contrast, the present invention provides a light source mounted to the interior walls of a washing chamber of a dishwasher in order to illuminate the interior of the washing chamber. The present invention gives no warning of accurate door position as taught by Burnett '004 wherein warning lights pulse when the door is moved to a horizontal position. The present invention provides a steady illumination for a user to inspect the interior of a dishwasher. Instead of causing the user to avoid the dishwasher, the illumination within invites the user to inspect the interior of the dishwasher. By illuminating the interior of the washing chamber from within the washing chamber and especially providing a light source in one of the interior walls of the washing chamber, the interior of the washing chamber is fully illuminated. Since the present light source is disposed interiorly of the door seal, enhanced illumination of the interior is provided and the contents of the dishwasher are lit from either the back or sides, thereby leaving no inwardly directed shadows caused by the contents of the washing chamber as would occur in an attempt at external illumination of the interior of a washing chamber.

Such an exterior illumination of the interior of a washing chamber is attempted in Lamb, Jr. '592. There, and with reference to Figure 1, a fluorescent bulb 30 is mounted horizontally in a channel formed within an elongate trim member 26 attached to the front of a dishwashing machine to project forwardly over the door across the full width of the door when the door is closed. The bulb is sufficiently recessed in a manner to be normally concealed. The bulb is disposed exteriorly of the door seal so as to avoid the need for sealing the light against water within the washing chamber (Col. 2, lines 1-15). Dashed lines in Figure 3 indicate rays from the bulb and show the extent to which the interior of the machine and particularly the bottom of the tub or chamber is illuminated

when the door is open (Col. 2, lines 17-20). Clearly, in Figure 3, the rays emitted into the interior from the light disposed exteriorly of the door seal cannot fully illuminate the interior of the appliance. The upper rear recesses of the washing chamber cannot receive direct illumination from a recessed bulb disposed vertically above the level of the top of the washing chamber. Even Lamb, Jr. '592 points to the bottom of the tub receiving the most illumination.

Accordingly, Lamb, Jr. '592 does not make up the deficiencies of Burnett '004 with respect to the structure required to achieve the present invention. Accordingly, the combination of Burnett '004 and Lamb, Jr. '592 does not achieve the present invention and, therefore, cannot be used under 35 USC §103(a) to render the present invention obvious and therefore unpatentable.

For these and other reasons, Burnett '004 and Lamb, Jr. '592, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 10. Therefore, Claim 10 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 10-18 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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